

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05603 171611Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 /094 W  
-----059101 180442Z /16

R 171540Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2229  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: SHUMJM  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS AND JAMAICA

REF: STATE 176956

1. DESPITE SEVERE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, A HIGH LEVEL OF ARMED ROBBERY, WITH OCCASIONALLY ASSOCIATED VIOLENCE, AND CONCOMITANT GROWING DISSATISFACTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIME MINISTER, THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN JAMAICA REMAINS A BRIGHT SPOT. THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT HAS WARMLY WELCOMED THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES AND INITIATIVES OF THE USG. GENERALLY THE SITUATION HERE REMAINS AS DESCRIBED IN THE ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT TO CONGRESS (STATE 23894). THE ONLY EXCEPTION WE HAVE NOTED RECENTLY IS A REPORT THAT THE OPPOSITION JAMAICA LABOR PARTY HAS WRITTEN TO THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REQUESTING AN INVESTIGATION OF WHAT IT CALLS THE VIOLATION OF FREE ELECTION PROCEDURES BOTH IN THE 1976 ELECTION AND,  
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ALLEGEDLY, STILL CONTINUING. WE DO NOT EXPECT THIS PROTEST TO BE TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY, AND INsofar AS WE KNOW IT HAS GOTTEN VIRTUALLY NO NOTICE OR PUBLICITY.

2. THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT CURRENTLY GETS HIGH MARKS FROM MOST OBSERVERS IN THE MAIN HUMAN RIGHTS CATEGORIES, I.E. TORTURE, CRUEL/INHUMAN/DEGRADING TREATMENT, ARBITRARY

ARREST, IMPRISONMENT, FAIR TRIALS, INVASION OF HOME, VITAL NEEDS, AND RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES. THERE ARE SOME SMALL MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE CALLED RESTRICTIONS ON FULL LIBERTIES, SUCH AS A GENERAL BAN ON PUBLIC PROTEST MEETINGS WHICH WAS INSTITUTED A FEW MONTHS AGO WHEN A NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP'S PROTEST ON THE CONDITIONS OF THE ROADS HAD GOTTEN OUT OF HAND AND SOMEONE FIRED A SHOT. HOWEVER, WE CONSIDER THESE MEASURES MINIMAL AND TEMPORARY, DEVISED TO MEET A SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEM. THE SECURITY MEASURES SEEM TO HAVE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT. INsofar AS WE ARE AWARE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS HAD NOTHING DEROGATORY TO REPORT ON JAMAICA AND HAS A STANDING INVITATION FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT ANY TIME.

3. PRIME MINISTER MANLEY, FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON, AND OTHER OFFICIALS HAVE BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY PRAISED PRESIDENT CARTER'S INITIATIVES IN HUMAN RIGHTS. ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON, THE GOJ DELEGATES TO THE RECENT OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WERE HELPFUL AND GENERALLY SUPPORTED A STRONG STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS. ACCORDING TO USUN 2857, IN THE FIRST ROUND CONSULTATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE 33RD GA THE US MISSION HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE RECEPTIVITY OF THE PRIMARY BROKER NATIONS, A GROUP WHICH INCLUDES JAMAICA.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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